



NEWS RELEASE

Central Idaho Dispatch
Salmon - Challis National Forest,
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~~Public and firefighter safety is the highest priority in fighting all wildland fires.~~

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FIRE UPDATE

August 8, 2008

Cayuse Fire

The Cayuse Fire consists of two fires, each approximately 20 acres, burning in Cayuse Creek and Roan Creek, tributaries of Horse Creek, three miles west of the Gattin Ranch and the Horse Creek Campground. The fires, caused by lightning from a thunderstorm August 3, are burning in sub-alpine fir and lodgepole pine, adjacent to old fire scars.

The fires are being managed as one incident by a Type III incident management team located in North Fork, Idaho. Over the next several days firefighters will be focusing their attention on preparing plans to reduce the risk to Gattin Ranch and Forest Service facilities in the area. Firefighters are not actively suppressing these fires due to unsafe conditions. The 1000 acre Woodhump Fire is burning on the Bitterroot National Forest just two miles west of the Cayuse Fire.

Fire managers are currently assessing the need of trail closures in the area. Visitors should expect to see smoke throughout the Horse Creek drainage.

Water Fall WFU

The 200 acre Waterfall Wildland Fire Use fire continues to slowly burn in the upper Waterfall Creek area, about two miles east of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and about five miles north of the Middle Fork Peak Lookout in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Two fire personnel are in the area to assess structure protection needs for three Forest Service trail bridges. They will also make public contacts in the remote area.

To protect Forest visitors from the current fire safety hazards associated with the fire, the Waterfall Creek Trail #045 has been closed from the junction with the Middle Fork Trail # 044 near the Big Creek Bridge up to the downstream end of Lower Terrace Lake. The entire Bighorn Crags area remains open to the public. Currently, the fire does not pose a hazard for float boat use of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. However, there may be some smoke in the area.

New Fire Starts

Four new fire starts were reported on the south zone of the Salmon-Challis National Forest following thunderstorms that moved through the area Thursday. Initial attack action was taken on these fires, which were all less than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in size. Crews were demobilized from three of the fires and two of the fires have been declared out.

Three engine crew members attacked to the Challis Fire – two and one half miles east of Mosquito Flat Reservoir and eight miles northwest of Challis. The fire was declared out Friday.

Four rappellers attacked the Yankee Fork fire in the headwaters of Yankee Fork Creek and five miles east of Mosquito Flat late Thursday afternoon.

Three members of an engine crew responded to the Crealy Fire $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of Bonanza. They were demobilized Friday morning.

Three engine crew members were flown by helicopter to the Grouse Fire $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north east of Grouse Mountain, in the Lost River Range. They are still working on the fire.